

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4115
ANSWERED ON:23.03.2001
SMUGGLING OF SKIN OF WILD ANIMALS
RAJIV PRATAP RUDY

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large number of cases of smuggling of skin of wild animals, leopards, tiger, have been detected at various parts and international airports during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether involvement of customs officials and some foreign agencies have been reported in facilitating illicit skin trade;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to check the smuggling of skin of wild animals?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (REVENUE) IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN)

- (a) & (b) : No, Sir. Only one case of such smuggling has been detected during the last three years, wherein snake skins, valued at Rs. 1.40 crores (approx.) were seized at Chennai Airport by Directorate of Revenue Intelligence during the year 1998-99.
- (c): No, Sir.
- (d): Does not arise in view of (c) above.
- (e): Field formations under the Customs Department are alert and vigilant to check smuggling of contraband goods, including smuggling of skin of wild animals.